

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the State's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed activity in the City of Portsmouth, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

September 11, 2007 to October 9, 2007

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a Federal action to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

Department of Defense, U.S. Navy

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Navy proposes to demolish Piers 4 and 5, dredge for a new Pier 5, construct new larger pier, and repave appropriate areas at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard Portsmouth. Details of the proposed action are discussed as follows:

- The demolition of existing Piers 4 and 5, including related berths will require the removal of all underground utilities and manholes, catch basins, crane rails and rail foundations, railroad track, ties, and ballast, as well as the quay wall structures.
- Deconstruction of the existing Piers 4 and 5 will be applied as feasible, such as top-down removal of the piers and sectional removal of pier components.
- Dredging to 47 +2 feet (14.39 meters) below mean low water (MLW), will be required from Pier 4 to the north side of existing Pier 6. Fill will also be removed from beneath the existing relieving platforms of Piers 4 and 5. Dredge material will be disposed at Craney Island Dredge Material Management Area in Portsmouth, Virginia.
- In order to provide a minimum required clearance of 70 feet (21.34 meters) between vessels at adjacent piers, and to maximize the pier space for the required infrastructures, a new pier with a width of 230 feet (70.10 meters) will be constructed. Primary construction materials for this project will be precast and cast-in-place concrete.
- Building setback from the edge of pier 5 will be approximately 100 feet (31 meters). The existing crane rails will be removed. New 175 pound (79 kilogram) 40 foot (12.192 meter) gauge crane rails will be installed to connect the existing crane rail system along Hitchcock Street with crane rails at the new Pier 5. The new crane rail system will be supported by a combination of continuous concrete footings and ballasts. New railroad tracks along new Pier 5 will include 115 pound (52 kilogram) rails. The new railroad system will run along the center of the pier, between the crane rails.
- Bituminous concrete pavement will be provided at the new Pier 5 and at the berth along Hitchcock Street within the extent of the demolition area.

The demolition and construction activities will be phased over a four year period from 2010 to 2013:

Phase 1 (2010): Demolition of Pier 4 and Berth 31

Phase 2 (2011): Construction of a new Pier 5

Phase 3 (2012): Demolition of existing Pier 5

Phase 4 (2013): Dredging of Piers 4 and 5 and disposal of dredge spoils

The Navy has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination (FCD) for the proposal that finds the action consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (VCP). The Navy is also preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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